

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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47

ACTION ST-01

INFO OCT-01 EA-03 ISO-00 FSE-00 /005 W

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R 070910Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9915

UNCLAS MANILA 13647

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ATRN, RP

SUBJ: SHIP TRAVEL - DIRECT ROUTE

REF: STATE 218636

1. REFTEL APPARENTLY REFLECTS FAILURE OF EMBASSY TO PROVIDE DETAILS OF ROUTING PROPOSED IN MANILA 13212, SINCE THIS ROUTING INVOLVES NO BACKTRACKING, IS NO LESS DIRECT, AND ACTUALLY CONSUMES LESS TIME THAN DIRECT SURFACE ROUTING FROM MANILA TO WEST COAST USA.

2. TYPICAL DIRECT SURFACE ROUTING OVER STATES LINE, WHICH IS ONLY US LINE PROVIDING SERVICE ALL THE WAY FROM MANILA TO WEST COAST USA, IS MANILA-HONGKONG-KEELUNG-KOBE-YOKOHAMA-HONOLULU-LOS ANGELES. TOTAL TRANSIT TIME MANILA/LOS ANGELES IS 23 DAYS. DIFFICULTY WITH THIS ROUTE IS INFREQUENCY OF SAILINGS.

3. USING WEEKLY US FEEDER SERVICE FROM MANILA TO HONG KONG ON AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES TO CONNECT WITH WEEKLY APL VESSELS TO WEST COAST USA, TYPICAL ROUTING IS MANILA-HONGKONG-KOBE-YOKOHAMA-LOS ANGELES. TOTAL TRANSIT TIME MANILA/LOS ANGELES, INCLUDING LAYOVER HONG KONG IS 21 DAYS. INCIDENTALLY, APL UNTIL ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO HAD SAILING FROM MANILA TO US VIA HONG KONG SAME AS STATES LINE BUT DISCONTINUED THIS PRACTICE IN FAVOR OF FEEDER LINE APPROACH.

4. PLEASE NOTE THAT USE OF FEEDER ROUTE INVOLVES UNCLASSIFIED

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FEWER PORT CALLS THAN DIRECT ROUTE, THUS ACCOUNTING

FOR REDUCED TRANSIT TIME. ALSO NOTE THAT BOTH ROUTES FOLLOW ESSENTIALLY SAME COURSE, EXCEPT THAT APL AVOIDANCE OF HONOLULU PROBABLY REDUCES TOTAL MILEAGE THIS ROUTE BELOW MILEAGE OF STATES LINE ROUTE.

5. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY BELIEVES BOTH ROUTES SHOULD BE CONSIDERED DIRECT ROUTES ON AMERICAN BOTTOMS AND SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED FOR TRAVELERS FROM MANILA OTHERWISE ENTITLED UNDER REGULATIONS TO USE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION.

6. APPRECIATE ADVICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO TRAVELERS CONCERNED CAN SECURE RESERVATIONS.
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